

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a transfer control protocol handoff notification (TCPHN) mechanism for a wireless network by which hosts connected through the wireless network via a transfer control protocol (TCP) connection can be notified in the event a handoff occurs. The TCPHN mechanism allows hosts connected in TCP to avoid TCP timeouts and reduce any adverse effect on transmission performance. The TCPHN mechanism of the present invention can be used in relation to any TCP connection between any transmitting and receiving host where at least one of the transmitting and receiving hosts is mobile and subject to handoffs. In one embodiment for example, the TCPHN mechanism is used in relation to a TCP connection between a mobile host in a wireless network and a non-mobile server host in a connecting Internet protocol (IP) network.